



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER  
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



SEPTEMBER, 1984

84-6

## RECONSTRUCTION AT THE LAWSON SITE

Vice-President David Smith will present our first talk of the fall season concerning recent reconstruction efforts by the Museum of Indian Archaeology on the Lawson site. He promises lots of slides and witty discussion!

Meeting time is 8:00 P.M. at the Museum of Indian Archaeology (1600 Attawandaron Road) on Thursday, September 13. Come on out and discover what your fellow members have been doing this past summer!

### *President*

Robert Pihl (225-2527)  
R.R. #1, Granton

### *Vice-President*

David Smith (473-1360)  
R.R. #4, Komoka

### *Secretary*

Linda Gibbs (685-6476)  
Unit 38-159 Sandringham Cres., London

### *Treasurer*

George Connoy (631-6338)  
762 Elm St., St. Thomas

Chapter  
Executive

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

As always, the first fall meeting held on September 4 was a busy one. First on the agenda was our Chapter bus trip cancellation. The poor response seemed to be due in part to our unsuccessful attempt to obtain our first choice of date, so that the only opening conflicted with the O.A.S. annual symposium. Also, trip advertising did not occur early enough during the year. It was proposed that 1985 Chapter trip planning begin immediately. George reported that refunds to those who submitted deposits are in the mail.

Organization of the 1985 O.A.S. Symposium here in London is already well under way. Entertainment and Accommodations Committee head Linda Gibbs has tentatively booked the Holiday Inn for the weekend of November 23 and 24. Other committee heads actively involved in planning include Rob Pihl (Program), George Connoy (Financial) and Bob Mayer (Publicity). If you wish to become a part of what will be an enjoyable and successful project, feel free to contact a committee head and volunteer some of your time and ideas!

Dave Smith, our Chapter Research Committee chairman, will be checking into opportunities for membership field and lab experience. Those persons wishing to participate are encouraged to contact Dave at the Museum of Indian Archaeology or the university. Chapter lab nights will be held on Thursdays, 7:30 P.M. at the Ministry beginning October 25. Future Chapter meeting speakers selected for our 1984/1985 agenda include Dr. El Molto, Bill Fox and Dr. W. Morris, a specialist in paleomagnetic studies.

Other matters discussed by our executive included plans for the Chapter Christmas Party and the selection of a new Executive Nomination Committee. President Rob Pihl stated that he would not be able to preside over monthly meetings due to Thursday night teaching commitments. Consequently, Dave will take over the agenda. George announced receipt of a \$200.00 operating grant from Toronto

and mentioned that he had received our new Chapter membership cards. Finally, Rob Pihl and Neal Ferris will be co-ordinating our Chapter's response to the ten year review of the Ontario Heritage Act. Members are strongly encouraged to voice their concerns regarding the achievements or perceived failures of this important piece of provincial legislation.

## SOCIAL REPORT

This year's annual O.A.S. Symposium is being held in Toronto on the weekend of October 20 and 21. A very full agenda includes speakers addressing a *wide* variety of topics, so there should be something for everyone. Details will be provided in the upcoming *Arch Notes*. Car pools to Toronto are being arranged for Chapter members. If interested, you are encouraged to contact a member of our executive as soon as possible.

The Museum of Indian Archaeology is pleased to announce a slide illustrated presentation by Thor Conway (Northeastern Ontario Regional Archaeologist) entitled: *Prehistoric Rock Art: The Mystery, the Research and the Interpretations*. Thor will be speaking at the museum at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 27. Admission is free, however please call the museum at 473-1360 to reserve a seat for this excellent presentation.

This year's Chapter summer picnic at Fanshawe Park was quite a success. The weather co-operated so that our traditional competitions and sports could be held. Charley Nixon brought his atlatl and darts, as well as his bow and arrows. Generally speaking, the hay bail was safe, unlike adjacent bystanders! It was most educational and Chapter stalwart, Bob Calvert, proved the most accurate. The pot luck buffet was sumptuous as ever!

Finally, word has it that this year's Christmas Party will be held at 55 Centre Street. Further details to follow...

This issue continues with the excellent *Nineteenth Century Notes* feature, as well as providing another in our series of fluted point types. The latter are courtesy of Dr. Chris Ellis and our artist, Janie. Our KEWA Editor would like to express the Chapter's continued appreciation for Mr. T. Kenyon's contribution!

The following article is dedicated to the slow but inevitable resurrection of the Early Woodland concept in Southern Ontario prehistory. Researchers such as Spence (1978, n.d.), Kenyon (1979), Fox (1981, 1983), Williamson (1978, 1980) and Jackson (1980) have generated data which argue strongly for the existence of a temporally discrete Early Woodland period, especially within the Carolinian biotic province of southwestern Ontario. Subsistence strategies appear most similar to those of the preceeding Archaic period and different from the succeeding Middle Woodland. The Ferris site is particularly important as it is situated in the heart of the southwestern Ontario Canadian biotic province culture sequence at Inverhuron.

## AN EARLY WOODLAND CAMP ON INVERHURON BAY

WILLIAM A. FOX

Thomas Lee's pioneering work with Fritz Knechtel in the Inverhuron vicinity during the early 1950's resulted in Lee's (1960) Lucas site report and W. Kenyon's (1959) investigation of a variety of components situated on raised beaches dating back to Late Archaic times. While no Early Woodland occupation was identified by these researchers or Finlayson (1977) during his 1972 excavations, the Ferris site discovery was predicted by Lee (1960: 49) who stated that

*It is not improbable that Vinette I will also be found there, since it occurs on a related site only a few miles away*  
(Lee, 1952: 69).

The Ferris site (BbHj-21) was discovered during a June 21 Ministry field trip to Inverhuron Provincial Park in 1983 (see Figure 1). This visit was intended

to address I. Kenyon's interest in the nineteenth century townsite of Inverhuron. However, after a suitable refined white earthenware sample had been acquired, a brief tour of the Inverhuron Archaic T7 (BbHj-5) site was arranged for the Experience '83 crew. It was during the return trip to the Lucas (BbHj-3) site that a collapsed Vinette I vessel was found exposed by recent wind erosion in a sand dune blowout. Some extremely friable ceramics were recovered from the surface and the remainder was covered with a thin layer of sand.

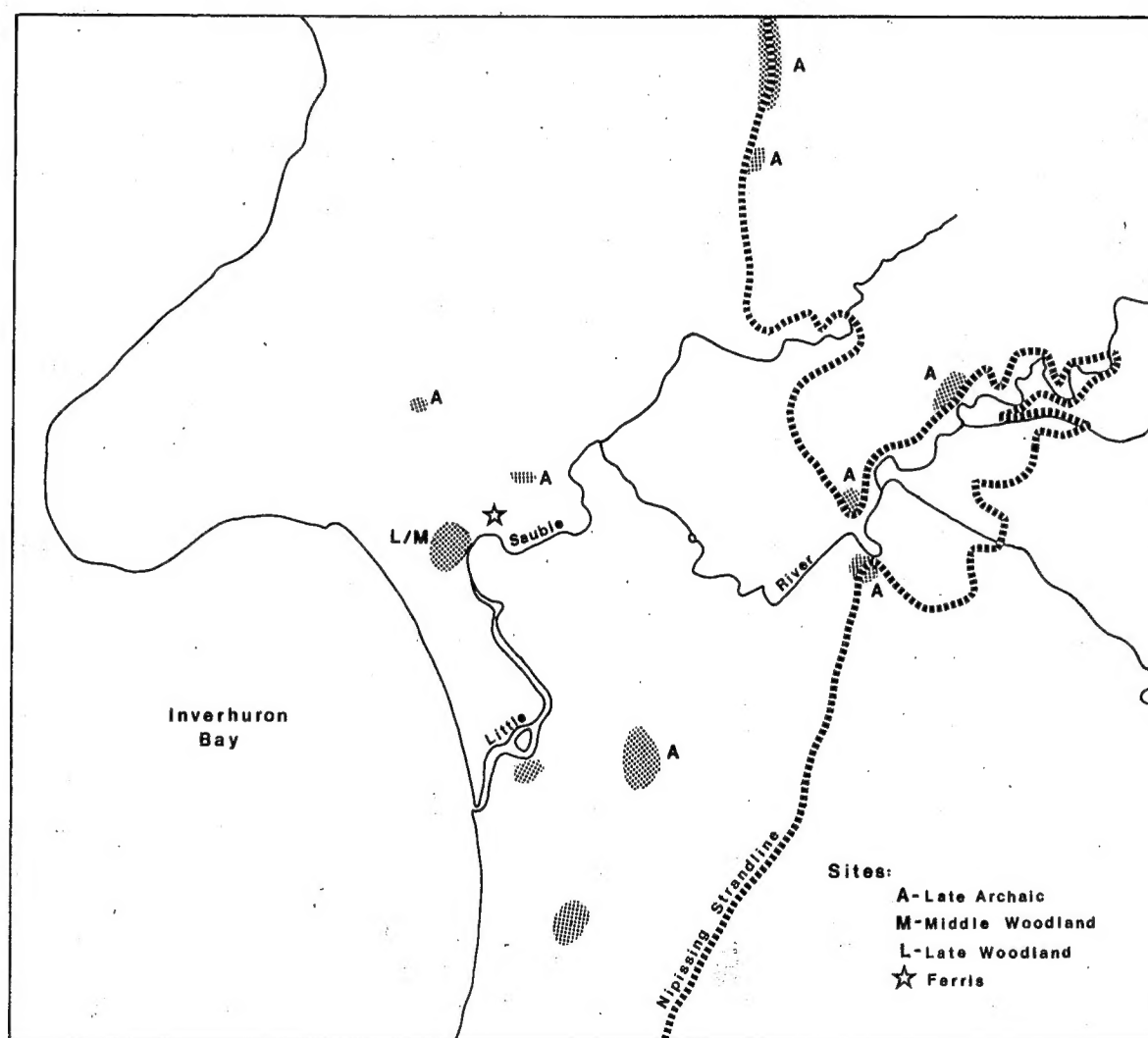


Figure 1: Inverhuron Area Sites

A crew consisting of Ian Kenyon, Neal Ferris, London Chapter member Mike Gibbs and the writer returned on July 26 to salvage the exposed portion of this site. Over a period of two days twelve square meters of deposit were excavated

and a survey transect was run between the Rocky Ridge (BbHj-16) site and the present lake shore (see Figures 2 and 3). The latter activity constituted the first levelling in or accurate elevation readings for a variety of habitation components scattered over the Inverhuron raised beaches between the Lucas and Rocky Ridge sites. Results will be discussed in the concluding section of this report.

Our 4 X 3 meter excavation area was laid out in twelve one meter units, the long axis aligned with magnetic north (see Figure 4). Trowelling of the superficial white blow sand deposit exposed a black to black and light brown mottled cultural stratum a mere 2 cm. thick. This thickened to 3 cm. in Feature 1 and 6 cm., including burned pink sand, in Feature 2 (see Figure 4).

The light dry sand of the site allowed all excavated fill not bagged for flotation to be screened using a 2 mm. mesh hand sieve. Ninety-three and a half litres of soil from the cultural stratum and Features 1 and 2 was retained for flotation. Artifact recoveries were not abundant, other than fire-cracked rock, and are described below.

#### FEATURES

Three features in addition to the cultural stratum itself were located during our excavation. Feature 1 consisted of a roughly 75 cm. diameter deposit of white ash and small charcoal fragments (see Figure 4). As mentioned above, it attained a maximum thickness of 3 cm. Feature 2 was an area of pink burned sand, up to 4 cm. in thickness, situated below the cultural stratum. This probable hearth site measured 125 by 75 cm., was aligned N.W.-S.E., and appeared to be associated with a dense cluster of fire-cracked igneous rock which partially overlapped its eastern periphery (see Figure 4). The final feature consisted of the aforementioned collapsed Vinette I vessel. It was located parallel to and S.W. of Feature 2, with the rim portions at the N.W. end of the sherd distribution.

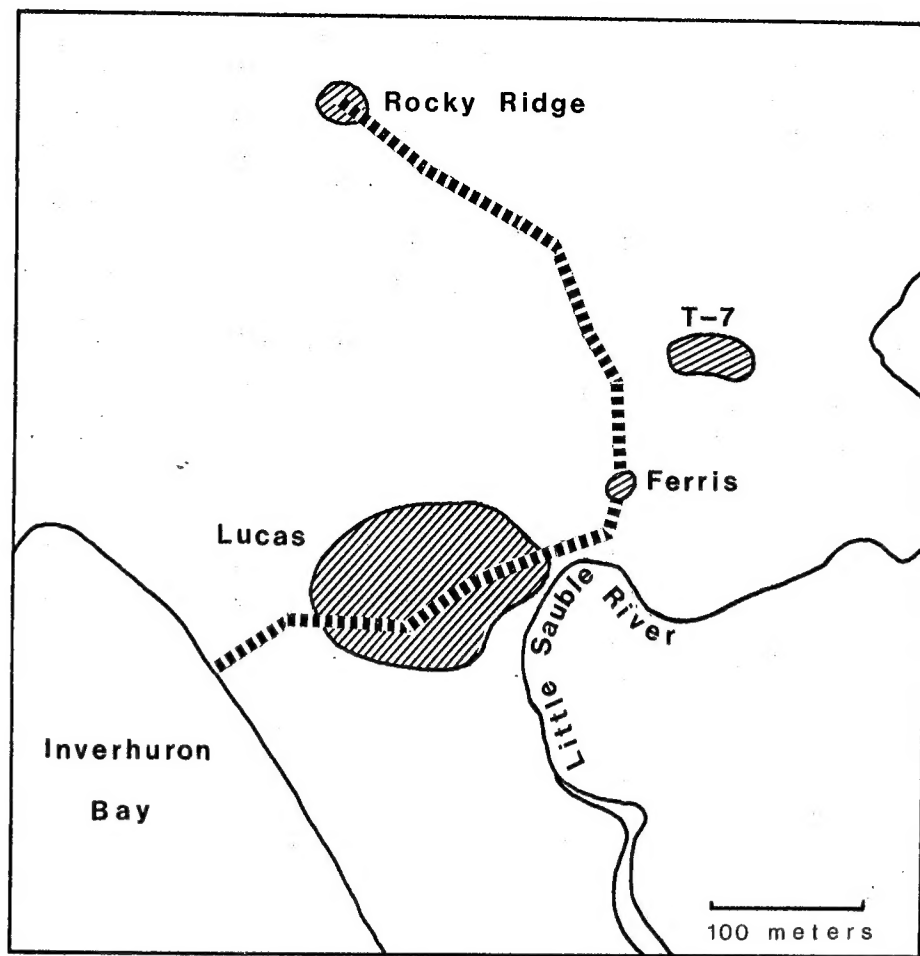


Figure 2: Inverhuron Survey Transect Route

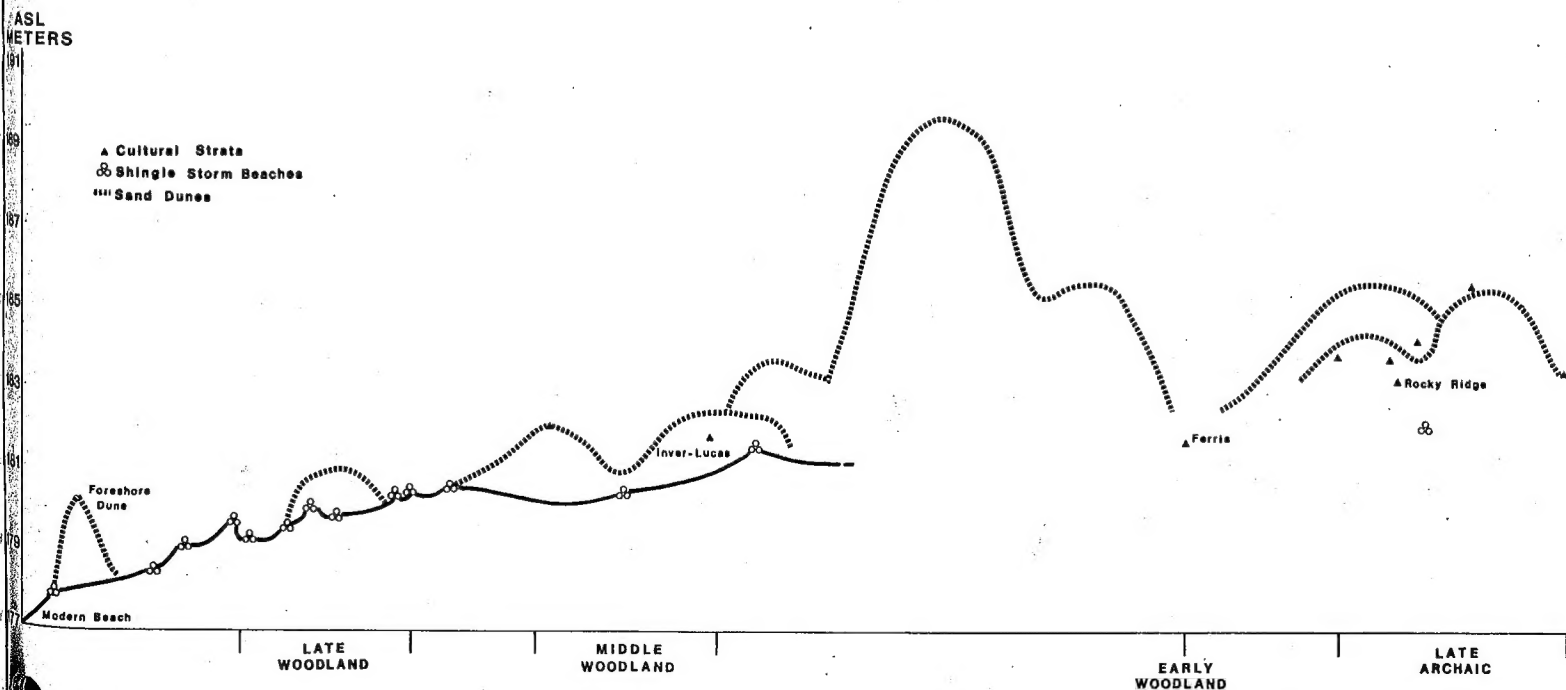


Figure 3: Inverhuron Cultural and Natural Elevations (Transect collapsed to N.E.-S.W. line)



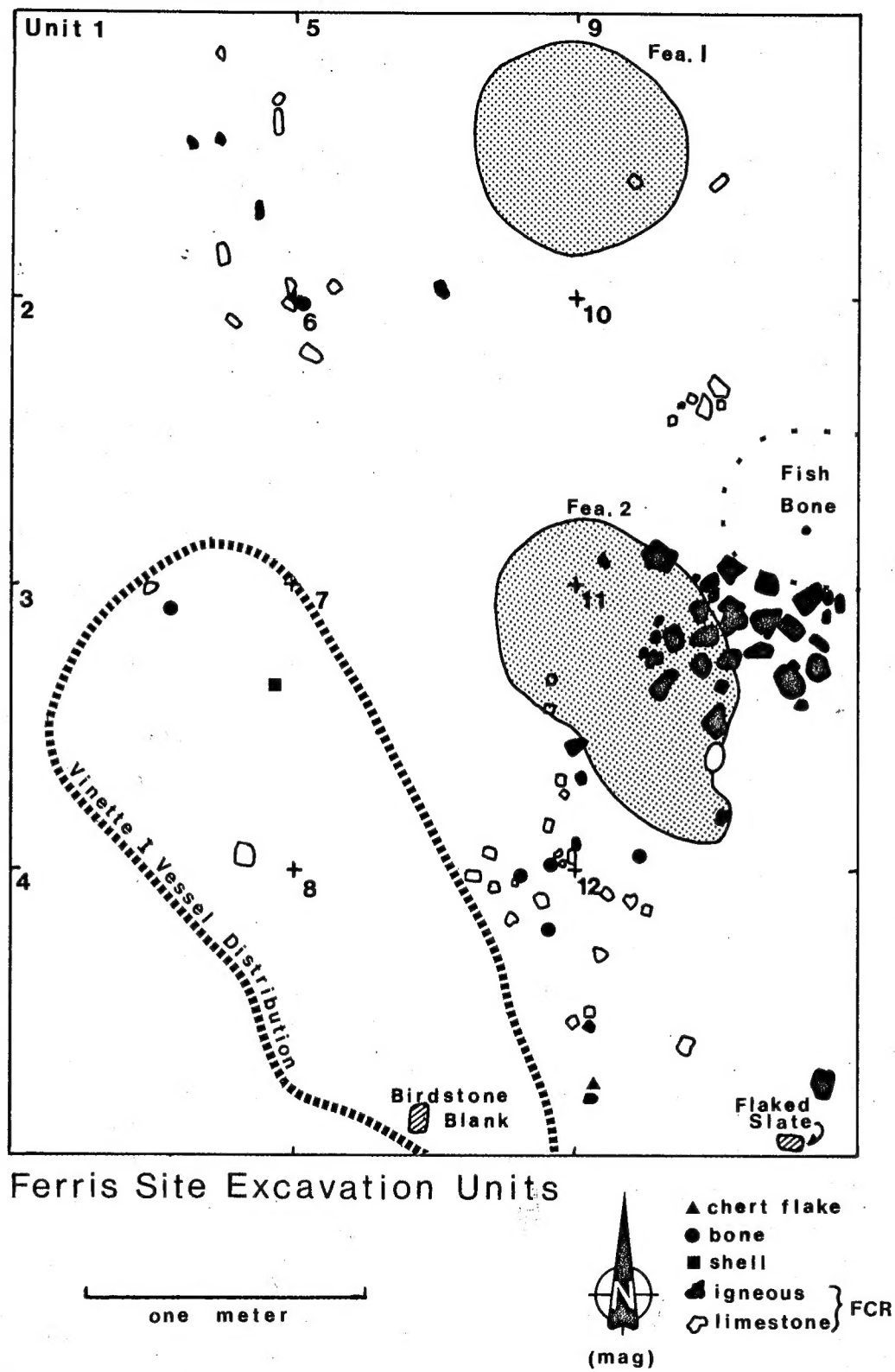


Figure 4



## ARTIFACTS

### Ceramics

The highly fragmented remains of a single Vinette I vessel were obtained primarily from two units (3 and 7). Rootlet infestation of the ceramics made these already friable sherds particularly fragile. Horizontal cord malleated decoration, at times smoothed, adorns both the interior and exterior surfaces. Exterior colour varies from buff to pink, while the interior is black to grey to buff. Burnt organic matter adheres to some portions of the interior (near the rim?). The gabbro tempering is coarse (up to 9 mm.) and coil breaks are pronounced. No coil notching is evident.

Reconstruction has been difficult, so that metrical observations are limited. The lip appears to be smoothed over cord and varies from 6 to 8.5 mm. in thickness, but the vessel orifice diameter is impossible to determine. Vessel body thickness ranges from 6.5 to 13 mm., with an average maximum sherd thickness of 9.7 mm.

### Lithics

Chipped stone recoveries include only five artifacts. A weathered, crudely flaked netsinker manufactured from a fragment of limestone was found on the site surface, just south of the excavation units. It measures 93 X 90 X 37 mm. in maximum length, width and thickness. The inter-notch width is 75 mm. and it weighs 406.8 g. Unit 7 produced a single limestone flake from the cultural stratum. It displays an angular fragment cortex on its dorsal surface and is 35 X 71 X 15.5 mm. in length, width and thickness. The massive platform measures 47 mm. in length by 18 mm. in width.

Excavation of Unit 8 uncovered the most interesting and diagnostic lithic artifact. This flaked and pecked grey banded slate fragment is evidently the

head and foreportion of a birdstone blank broken in production. Its form is very similar to others from southwestern Ontario, including the Donaldson site specimen (Wright, 1963: Plate XXII Figure 1). The maximum dimensions are 80 X 57 X 32 mm in length, height and thickness.

Unit 12 recoveries include a burnt red-grey banded slate fragment which displays flaking and pecking scars, and a dull green coloured chert flake. The former is fire-cracked and its maximum length, width and thickness are 68, 46 and 25 mm, respectively. A Canadian Shield formation source is likely for the green chert of the latter artifact, however, the raw material may have been obtained from a local secondary source in pebble form. The platform remnant is a fractured point and it displays the extremely pronounced bulb of percussion characteristic of hard hammer flaking. Its dimensions are 14 X 16.5 X 4.5 mm in maximum length, width and thickness.

Fire-cracked rock represented on the site includes both a variety of igneous Canadian Shield-derived materials, as well as limestone derived from local bed-rock. All such rock was undoubtedly acquired by the site inhabitants from local active and/or fossil beach lines. Information concerning its abundance per excavation unit is provided in Table 1 below. A single entire limestone cobble weighing 240.4 g and two igneous cobbles weighing a total of 843.6 g were excavated from Unit 11.

Table 1: Fire-cracked Rock Distribution

Unit	Rock Type		Limestone	
	<u>Igneous</u>			
	<u>n</u>	<u>wt. (g)</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>wt. (g)</u>
1	3	50.7	5	219.5
2	--		2	20.0
3	--		2	362.1
4	--		3	3.6
5	--		5	56.4
6	--		1	161.0
7	1	78.6	9	221.4
8	6	1.3	18	238.0
9	--		2	112.5
10	10	3079.4	6	238.1
11	97	8072.6	1	0.1
12	4	675.1	10	145.1

## FAUNAL REMAINS

A total of 272 elements were presented to Rosemary Prevec (1984) for analysis. Of these, 83 appeared to be intrusive and unrelated to the Native occupation; including land and freshwater snail shells, fingernail clam shells, and meadow vole and mouse elements. Only 15 of the remaining 189 elements could not be identified to class. One hundred and twenty-six of the 174 identified elements were burnt.

The only mammal identified was white-tailed deer, represented by 11 ankle and foot bones. Largemouth or smallmouth bass ribs were also present in the collection. A minimum of four frogs or toads were identified among the 113 amphibian bones. These bones relate to all portions of the body, and fully 111 of them are burnt. The vast majority were recovered from the hearth (Feature 2). Finally, twelve bivalve shells and fragments could only be identified to the *Unionidae* family. These freshwater clams are common on prehistoric Native sites in southwestern Ontario.

## ARCHAEOBOTANY

The light and heavy float fractions derived from Features 1 and 2 were studied by Rudy Fecteau (Fecteau, 1983). Very little carbonized wood and no carbonized seeds were in evidence. All that could be said about Feature 2 was that some of the charcoal fragments were coniferous. Pine charcoal was identified in Feature 1.

## RADIOCARBON DATE

It was with considerable difficulty that 6.6 g of charred wood was abstracted from the cultural stratum floats. Charred wood fragments were scarce and small in size. The resulting single date was gratifying however,  $2420 \pm 80$  B.P. (I - 13,535) or 470 B.C., uncorrected.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Ferris site data, while limited, all indicate that an Early Woodland cultural group occupied the Inverhuron Bay area at the same time as similar cultural manifestations elsewhere in southern Ontario. The camp location, situated as it is between the Late Archaic components inland and Middle and Late Woodland components to the lake side, is exactly as would be expected from a temporal and geomorphological standpoint (see Figure 1).

Cultural component elevations are, not surprisingly, less clear cut (see Figure 3). This is due to the fact that we have no way of knowing exactly where each prehistoric occupation was sited relative to the extant Lake Huron shoreline. Inverhuron Bay camps appear to be warm season occupations (Finlayson, 1977 and Ramsden, n.d.). A good guess is that most were located just behind foreshore dunes, so that camps were protected from direct lake gales, but were subject to some wind action which would discourage flying insect pests. Nevertheless, camps such as Finlayson's Inverhuron-Lucas Saugeen component could have been situated on a temporary dune surface some distance back from the active lake shore, yet elevated enough to benefit from Lake Huron breezes.

What our transect elevations do indicate is that the Ferris camp is at a lower elevation than any of the documented post-Nipissing Late Archaic sites in its vicinity. It is at a similar elevation to succeeding Middle Woodland camps, which in turn are at higher elevations on average than the Late Woodland components.

The Ferris site cultural stratum continues east into a substantial sand dune, so that its exact extent is unknown. Feature and artifact densities suggest that it is a short term camp. Faunal remains argue for a summer occupation, adding to the site's importance. Spence and Fox (n.d.) have noted that all southern Ontario Early Woodland camps, where evidence of seasonality is available, appear to be fall occupations.

The shifting sands of Inverhuron have provided many important glimpses of prehistoric Native life in Bruce County. While small and brief, the Ferris camp is among the most significant to our present understanding of northern south-western Ontario culture history.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to begin by thanking Mr. P. Baxter, District Parks Supervisor, and Mr. G. Brown, Operations Supervisor, of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Owen Sound office for permission to undertake archaeological investigations within Inverhuron Provincial Park. London Chapter member Mike Gibbs braved the oven-like temperatures of the dunes for two days to assist in the July salvage excavation. Ian Kenyon and Neal Ferris not only lent their hands to excavation, but fought their way through thickets with transit and stadia rod to accomplish the survey transect. The writer was assisted by Carl Murphy in accomplishing the fill flotation and by the London Chapter P.B.S. (Wednesday night lab) crew in sorting the float fractions. Finally, Ian mapped the survey transect data and Janie drafted the excellent illustrations. Thank you all.

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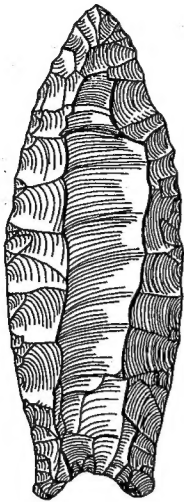
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The answer to Peter's puzzle in last month's issue? Why, because *it was humerus...*

(A new all time low in Scandinavian humour!)



## BARNES FLUTED POINTS



**SIZE:** Barnes points range from ca. 35-105 mm in length ( $\bar{x}$  = 61.2), 15-25 mm in maximum width ( $\bar{x}$  = 21.5), 3.5-8 mm in thickness ( $\bar{x}$  = 5.7), and 14-20 mm in basal width ( $\bar{x}$  = 17.4). Basal concavity depth ranges from ca. 2-6 mm ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.9).

**SHAPE:** Most points have "fishtails". Lateral base edges expand moderately from the "waist" above the fishtail to a maximum width at, or (if the point is largely unresharpened) just below mid-point. The points tend to be narrow and thick (width to thickness ratios of ca. 3-4.5 to 1) with marked biconvex or lenticular cross-sections.

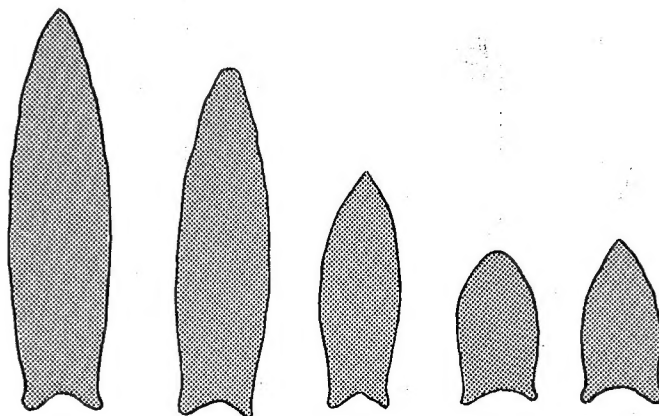
**FLAKING:** The points exhibit well-executed parallel-collateral flaking which terminates along the mid-line on each face. The ridge formed by these terminations down the mid-line was used as a guide for long (up to 80 mm), single, parallel-sided flutes. Flutes tend to extend to the tip on one face and from 1/2 to 3/4 of length on the other. There are never more than 2 flutes to a face. Often, the base of the flute has been widened and the base thinned by the subsequent removal of a single, short, broad flake (the "Barnes" finishing technique; see Roosa 1965). Lateral basal edges and basal concavities are lightly ground.

**RAW MATERIAL:** In north southwestern to south-central Ontario, most points are made on Collingwood (Fossil Hill formation) chert while in more southerly areas of Ontario, Onondaga chert is common. In eastern Michigan most points are on Bayport chert, while those in northern Ohio tend to be made on Tenmile Creek chert.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Barnes points are diagnostic of the Parkhill industry or complex which occurs in southern Ontario, eastern Michigan, northern Ohio and western New York state.

**AGE AND CULTURAL AFFILIATIONS:** No C-14 dates are available for Barnes points but they are guess-dated to ca. 10,700 to 10,600 B.P. The points are somewhat similar to Cumberland fluted points found farther south.

**REMARKS:** The Parkhill complex is probably the best known of all northeastern Paleo-Indian complexes but little has yet been published. Major excavations have been carried out at the Parkhill, Fisher and Thedford II sites in Ontario and the Barnes site in Michigan. Sites of the complex are often associated with the strandline of glacial Lake Alonquin.



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cm

# NINETEENTH CENTURY NOTES

## NINETEENTH CENTURY AXES

THOMAS KENNON

The axes shown below are basically 2 types - No. 1 is a round poll European pattern axe that has most of its weight on the blade below the handle. Nos. 2 to 7 are square polled axes that generally have heavy square polls with shorter and lighter blades. 1--Round poll belt axe from Hunters site (1790-1820) Haldimand Co. Wght. 1 lb. 6 oz. 2--Square poll hatchet from Jacob Beer site (1850-70) Middlesex Co. Wght. 11 oz. 3--Square poll Anglo-American axe from Mussen site Haldimand Co. Wght. 2 lb. 11 oz. 4--Square poll English axe from from Matthew Elliott site 1784-1984 Essex Co. Wght. 2 lb. 11 oz. The felling or chopping axes (Nos. 5, 6, 7) are good examples of the square polled axe that was first developed in the U.S.A. about 1750 and they are known as the "American" axe. 5--John Young Jr. site (1820-60) Haldimand Co. Wght. 3 lb. 14 oz. 6--David Rogers site (1850-90) Wght. 3 lb. 2 oz. 7--John Brigham site, Wentworth Co. Wght. 3 lb. 15 oz.

